

March 21, 1961

Dr. Peter H. A. Sneath
National Institute for Medical Research
London, N.W. 7, ENGLAND

Dear Peter:

I will try to answer one particular point you raised in your letter. I don't know very much more that I can point to about episomes, beyond what you already know about. Hirota's work was in rather difficult shape as far as trying to get a coherent publication out of it - particularly in view of anticipation of much of the more salient material by Adelberg and Co. If we could have had considerably more time together, we might have straightened this out. So I have recommended to Hirota that to guard against completely losing the drift of this material, that he prepare his own texts for publication in the Japanese literature. In any event, I suggest that you simply write to him directly for any references. His address is the Department of Genetics, Faculty of Medicine, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan.

I certainly agree with you about the grasshoppers - there would not be very much point in going into them unless they were really quite old. How can you date the several centuries antiquity of the soil samples you mention?

Yours cordially,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics